

Message Text

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12

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 DPW-01 /087 W

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R 121545Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4948

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, AO, SREF

SUBJ: ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REFS: CAPE TOWN 0122, USUN 0482

1. SAG DEPT FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENT ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS A COPY OF FON MIN MULLER'S FEBRUARY 6 LETTER TO UNSYG WALDHEIM (USUN 0482), AND SUBSEQUENTLY CIRCULATED EXCERPTS OF UNSYG REPLY INDICATING THAT UN CANNOT RESPOND TO SOUTH AFRICAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO CAMPS IN ANGOLA. EXCERPT INCLUDES PASSAGE NOTING THAT "AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMIT, THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WILL CERTAINLY DO WHAT-EVER IT CAN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE SITUATION."

2. MULLER'S LETTER REFLECTS DISSATISFACTION OF SAG OVER INABILITY OF UNWILLINGNESS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO INTEREST SELF PLIGHT OF DISPLACED ANGOLANS. SAG
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SEES SELF AS LEFT TO CARRY BURDEN OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS

AT SUBSTANTIAL COSTS. PRESS FEB 12 CARRIES HEADLINES REPORTING FLOOD OF ESTIMATED 90,000 MORE ANGOLANS HEADING SOUTHWARD IN FLIGHT FROM MPLA ADVANCE, AND EXPRESSES FEARS THAT HUGE INFLUX CANNOT BE PREVENTED FROM SPILLING OVER INTO SOUTH WEST AFRICA. SECY FOR SOCIAL WELFARE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN, SAG WOULD HAVE TO ACT TO INSURE THEIR WELFARE.

3. AS OUTLINED CAPE TOWN 0122, WE THINK REFUGEE PROBLEM PRESENTS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION. WE APPRECIATE DIFFICULTY WHICH CONFRONTS UN IN DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON WHAT REMAINS BASICALLY AN ANGOLAN PROBLEM. FURTHER, WE ARE AWARE THAT USG MUST ACT WITH GREAT CIRCUMSPECTION IN THIS MATTER TO FORESTALL FURTHER ALLEGATIONS OF USG COMPLICITY IN SAG'S ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT MORE ANGOLANS WILL CONTINUE TO FLEE SOUTHWARD AND THAT, IF FOR NO OTHER THAN HUMANITARIAN REASONS, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED. GIVEN HIGHLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF ISSUE, ASSUMPTION OF LEADING ROLE FOR TIME BEING BY ICRC AS INDICATED IN WALDHEIM'S RESPONSE TO MULLER SEEMS MOST APPROPRIATE COURSE. DEPARTMENT AND US MISSION GENEVA MAY WISH TO INSURE THAT ICRC DOES INDEED CARRY OUT MISSION AS SPELLED OUT BY WALDHEIM.
BOWDLER

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